The Public, a project of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, is an independent, collectively-run, community-oriented publication that provides a forum for topics underreported and voices underrepresented in the dominant media. All contributors to the paper are volunteers. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit articles or story ideas to the editorial collective. We prefer, but do not necessarily restrict ourselves to, articles on issues of local impact written by authors with local ties.

EDITORS/FACILITATORS:
Sarah Boyer
Lisa Chason
Darrin Drda
Linda Evans
Belden Fields
Meghan Krausch
Paul Mueth
Laura Stengrim
Maggie Quirk
Bijan Warner

THE PUBLIC
Urbana-Champaign IMC
218 West Main St., Urbana, IL, 61801
217-344-8820
e-mail: imc-print@publici.ucimc.org

Websites:
http://publici.ucimc.org
www.ucimc.org

Get Involved with the Public!
You don’t need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The Public is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), to post a story to the website (http://www.ucimc.org), or to contact one of the editors.

• Become a citizen journalist; write a news story or opinion piece.
• Make a tax-deductible contribution.
• Help distribute the Public around the Champaign-Urbana area.
• Help with fund-raisers.
• Join the editorial board.

Sustaining Contributors
The Public.i wishes to express its deep appreciation to the following sustaining contributors for their financial and material support:
Socialist Forum: An Open Discussion and Action Group, Meets 3rd Saturdays of the month, 3-5 pm, at IMC, 218 W. Main St., (U)
World Harvest International and Gourmet Foods
550 E. University, Champaign
The Union of Professional Employees (UPE)
Home of Gourmet Chinese and Thai Eatin or Carry-out Restaurant
604 E. Daniel, Champaign, 344-7483
The Natural Gourmet
2225 S. Neil, Champaign, 355-6365
United Car Center: Quality Cars, Wholesale Prices
606 E. University, Champaign, 352-7870
Aware, the Anti-War Anti-Racism Effort
Meets Sundays 5-6:30pm at the IMC, 218 W. Main St., Urbana. All are welcome, www.aware-net

Putting a FACE on POLITICS

The Public.i would also like to extend thanks to the following individual sustainers:
David Green and Harriet Bursztyn
Humanitarian Clowning in Cambodia
Susan Parenti
Indigenous Rights in Honduras
Belden Fields
An Interview with Kathy Kelly
Laura Stengrim

Published by the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center
March 2004 • V4 #2

Meet the Board of Trustees
Lisa Chason & Ricky Baldwin
Page 2
Humanitarian Clowning in Cambodia
Susan Parenti
Page 4
Indigenous Rights in Honduras
Belden Fields
Page 5
An Interview with Kathy Kelly
Laura Stengrim
Page 6
This month's theme for the Public is "Putting a Face on Politics," in honor of those made invisible and in response to that which is overwhelming and sometimes facetious. Within this rubric we present the people who make up the UIUC Board of Directors, as well as stories from activists connected to Champaign-Urbana who are working around the world. We are proud to publish these stories here, and to present a perspective on world politics, economics, human rights, government, and the environment that is grounded locally. In this issue, we seek, as always, to convey a sense of what happens behind-the-scenes, whether it be in corporate or university board rooms, prison cells, or literally backstage.

The Smiling Face of Government Waste

By Jay Hansen

Jay Hansen is a local grass roots organizer who is also a teaching assistant in the History Department at U of Illinois. He has been active locally in several campaigns, including UIUC for Dean, Barak O'Bama for Senate and Dr. David Gill for U.S. House.

At a recent gathering of Republican state leaders in Carmi, IL, 35th district U.S. House Rep. Tim Johnson criticized his Democratic rivals for believing that the government best knows how to distribute the nation's assets. Republicans, he argued, believe in free enterprise and rewarding people who succeed in the face of risk. At the same time, however, Johnson also cited the need to pass massive new spending legislation, recommending (among other things) using Federal funds for work on the Wabash River bridge in Mt. Carmel and spending millions more on ethanol subsidies contained in a national energy bill. In fact, Mr. Johnson has proven quite supportive of massive government spending, voting most recently for an $820 billion omnibus spending bill packed with pet pork projects (my favorite being a $225,000 swimming pool restoration in Sparks, Nevada, included in the bill because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenageer because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenager because Rep. Jim Gibbons felt bad about having put tadpoles in the pool's drainage system when he was a teenage...
U of I Board of Trustees: Who Are They?

by Lisa Chason and Ricky Baldwin

Both Ricky Baldwin and Lisa Chason are recent-comers to Champaign-Urbana. Their surprise at the intransigence of the Chief controversy led them to wonder about the decision-makers and their underlying interests and interconnections. This piece of power structure research is hardly an exhaustive study but rather a contribution to making the invisible visible, by turning the light on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Those with other information and insights are invited to add to the story.

THE POWER OF THE BOARD

Established over a hundred years ago as the one body responsible directly to the legislature for the University of Illinois system of public higher education, the Board of Trustees has almost unlimited authority to run the University as it sees fit. In fact, the regulations, known as the “Statutes” that govern the Board’s activities were written and passed by the Board itself, and only the Board can amend them. The “General Rules” that supplement the “Statutes” All the authority of the University’s president, the chancellor of each campus (Chicago,Springfield and Urbana-Champaign), and their respective administrations are delegated by the Board.

For most of the Board’s history, individual trustees were elected to staggered six-year terms. The Alumni Association kept the closed nomination process entirely within its grip, filtering names through the alumni in each political party to the respective legislative committees and onto the statewide ballot. The fact that almost no one outside the inner circles of university alumni and administration knew much about the nominees hardly seemed to matter – voters scratched their heads over who they were and voted their party’s slate.

Then in 1996 the Legislature threw out the process of election altogether in favor of appointment by the Governor, effectively deposing the Alumni Association – reportedly a source of continuing friction behind closed doors. The Legislature still approves the appointments, and the Governor still theoretically maintains a balance between Republicans and Democrats. But critics have charged that the Board, and thus the UI system, is now for all intents and purposes an arm of the Governor’s Office. Only the three student trustees, one from each campus, are now elected. But only one – selected by the Governor – gets to vote.

Of the current nine non-student trustees, five were appointed by former Governor Ryan. Of these only Jeffrey Gindorf had previously been elected, then appointed when his term expired. In the past four months, Governor Blagojevich has appointed four, including Frances Carroll, maker and unmaker of the recent ill-fated proposal on the mascot. Four are Democrats, three Republicans. Two are independents, but both of these have substantial Republican connections. Most attended the University of Illinois at some point, but Margee Sodemann did not attend college at all and Robert Vickrey did not attend a university. Sodemann and Vickrey are the only two not based in Chicago. None except Carroll is an educator.

Three trustees – Lawrence Eppley, Sodemann and Vickrey – have been outspoken defenders of Chief Illiniwek. All three are Ryan appointees. Except for Carroll, all four Blagojevich appointees have stated publicly that they are undecided on the issue. One of these construction CEO Niranjan Shah – has been conspicuously absent during recent discussions of the mascot issue. In November Shah was reportedly in the building when the discussion was going on, but only took his seat when the Board had moved on to other business. The current voting student trustee, Nate Allen, once supported keeping the mascot but has stated that he has changed his mind.

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Considerable power is vested in the chair of the Board, a position held by Lawrence C. Eppley since former chair Gerald Shaer’s abrupt retirement last year with two years left on his term. She reportedly had close ties with Governor George Ryan and is very close to the current Governor. Eppley in turn is said to be quite close to Shear.

Eppley is head corporate lawyer for the Chicago-based law firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd. A Ryan appointee in 2001, Eppley describes himself as a political independent, but his firm’s “GOP connections,” as Crain’s Chicago Business points out, “are impeccable.” Among the firm’s partners is Lee A. Daniels, a former Illinois House minority leader who resigned two years ago as his party’s state chairman after allegations that staff members did political work on taxpayer time, and Jeffrey Ladd, who served on the Metra board with Donald Udstuen, a co-defendant of former Governor George Ryan.

One of the largest investment company practices in the US with over 200 lawyers in its Chicago offices alone, Bell Boyd occupies seven floors of its building and represents upwards of 600 mutual funds or their boards worth well over $400 billion. The firm has recently absorbed a number of smaller firms and attracted lawyers from others, including the intellectual property boutique Rockey, Milnamow & Katz, which represented the University of Illinois until the firm dissolved in 2002.

Eppley’s firm has made a priority of intellectual property (patent prosecution), especially in biotechnology, in the years since Eppley joined the Board of Trustees. One patent attorney with Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, for example, is Robert M. Barnett, President of the Intellectual Property Association of Chicago, whose membership includes almost 900 attorneys. And the firm’s involvement in intellectual property ranges into venture capital, too, particularly in medical and biotechnology – which is related to Eppley’s work on the Board.

Eppley made the news before becoming chair for his involvement over the last couple of years in the University’s venture capital debate. The original idea was to funnel state money directly into “start-up” businesses, especially spin-offs of state-funded university research, but political backlash forced a shift to less direct funding.
Frances Carroll, appointed by Governor Blagojevich in 2003, is serving the remainder of Thomas Lamont’s term after Lamont resigned due to his appointment as chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Carroll is an award-winning public school teacher, counselor and principal, who has administered programs for the mentally handicapped, staff development for special education teachers and other divisions in the Chicago Public Schools. Carroll’s appointment opened the way for legislative confirmation of three earlier Blagojevich appointees, which had been held up by Sen. Ricky Hendon’s (D-Chicago) insistence that the Governor appoint a black woman. Carroll is a Democrat.

Marjorie E. Sodemann, a local Republican Party committeewoman and former Champaign County Board member, was appointed by Governor Ryan in 2001. She has been a policy staffer in the Governor’s Office, a department head and manager for the Secretary of State’s Office and a state auditor, as well as supervisor of Champaign Township for many years. Sodemann is the only trustee without any higher education. She has stated publicly that she was surprised at being asked to serve on the Board, but is pleased to do so.

Joseph Power, a partner with the firm, served on Blagojevich’s transition team for former Governor Jim Edgar, among other high-profile activities. He is also a Democrat and the only person of color on the Board other than Carroll.

Robert Y. Sperling, a partner at the bicoastal law firm of Winston & Strawn, which donated about $135,000 to the Board, but is pleased to do so. He serves with his wife, Nina Power, another partner at the firm.

Robert F. Vickrey, a partner (2001) and Republican committeeman, has been vice president of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development at Millier Group Media in LaSalle, Ill., since 1968. Millier Group Media is a large media conglomerate, owning several radio stations and newspapers in Illinois and Indiana. The company was founded by Peter Millier, a former head of the Washington Times-Herald who returned to Illinois to expand his media holdings, including his recent obituary. Millier was also involved in promoting business and education, including Interstate 39 and Illinois Valley Community College.

Jeffrey Gindorf, M.D., is the current trustee who was elected under the old system, in 1992. Gindorf’s first term ended in 1999, at which time Governor Ryan appointed him. Gindorf is a Democrat. He earned his M.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago after graduating from UIUC with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. In addition to his own practice and other activities, Gindorf volunteers at Mchenry County Health Department Clinic, which provides free health care to the indigent.

Another doctor, Kenneth D. Schmidt, was also appointed in 1999 by then-Governor Ryan and also earned his M.D. from UI-Chicago. Schmidt is a Republican.
Clowning, Not Swimming, to Cambodia *

By Susan Parenti

Susan Parenti studied music composition in Rome with Goffredo Petrassi, and received her doctorate at the University of Illinois. Along with loved friend Herbert Brun and other co-conspirators, she participated in the Performers Workshop Ensemble as a performer, composer, and instigator. Unbidden, she continues to write music that requires thinking in listening, and to assemble a community that can listen so that there is something. She has two published books, The Politics of the Adjective "Political", and "I" and My Mouth and Their Irresistible Life in Language. She teaches at the School for Designing a Society in Urbana, and tours with Patch Adams.

In December I went to Cambodia for "humanitarian clowning." This is an account of the trip.

The title is a reference to the movie Swimming to Cambodia, made in 1987 by Spalding Gray, while he was working on the clowning. "This is an account of the trip.

For "humanitarian clowns" which means we use the antics of clowning for purposes of change. Like activists and medical practitioners, we try to change the condition of suffering, going to hospitals and orphanages as well as checkpoints and refugee camps. In the airport we arrive in full clown costume, some accords and fiddles, and clown with the airline staff, waiting passengers, and at the security stations (NOT in the US, will be guillotined). Pain? Boredom? Deadly serious power over? Here we come. We try. I'm an accordionist, a beginning clown.

On this trip, we were 3 people: 11 clowns (two from Italy) and two camera-men from Chile (who couldn't resist clowning at times).

In the Phnom Penh airport, a French journalist angrily said to our clown group, "I don't know how you Americans have the nerve to come to Cambodia. Are you aware the US bombed this country for 180 days, night and day? That bombing ruined the irrigation system that had been so carefully set up here for centuries?"

I recognized in his voice a performance that I would have done, too, if I were a helpless anger, accusation, in confronting the revolting innocence of the perpetrators. "Yup, ya see, we're just a bunch of carefree americans going on a tour of this here oriental country, heard it was cheap, women are pretty, gee did people die here, don't know anything about that, lots of old foods I guess, barbarians fighting barbarians, I'm an american, I pay a lot for my ignorance, ya'." So the French journalist was right to be mad. Right on.

When we finally arrived in Phnom Penh, the country took my eyes: the streets wildly busy with motorbike traffic (up to six people on one bike), the people seeming small to me, slender, graceful, and not pugnacious. A common Cambodian greeting gesture: people put their hands together to their chest in a prayerlike position, which looks like a gentle "At your service!" gesture.

How could one out of four people have been killed in this country, mostly by Cambodians themselves (Khmer Rouge soldiers), between 1970 and 1995?

Statistics I was told: in 2003, 60% of the population is under age 24, and of that, 50% are under age 15, a consequence of the terrible last 30 years of the country. 1 out of 4 people were killed in the time period between 1970-1995, partly as a consequence of US foreign policies (excuse me, I mean the foreign policies that the US people do not know about but the men in power do) which killed between 300,000 to one and a half million people, partly as a consequence of the dictator Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. 24% of the women can read; 36% of the men can read. There is 60% poverty, with people living on $2 a day. Rachael Snyder, our guide, said: "Women and children have no rights. There is law, but no justice. Cambodia is riddled with corruption" (but who will solvethis riddle, who?).

Beggars all over, some sliding on the ground when without voices. The legs of beggars, of shop women in the market, trying to get your attention (your 50 cents, their food, their survival).

If what were they do shy to beg? To starve from shyness?

There is a story by Chekhov of a starving father and son, and the father too ashamed to beg, and starving son who on a dare eats oysters fed him by rich men. Financially, our trip was sponsored by the actress Angelina Jolie, mother of an adopted Cambodian child, refugee camp visitor, and post-er child for UNHCR(United Nations High Commission for Refugees). Organizational, the trip was sponsored by Patch Adams and Wildman Adams of the Gesundheit Institute, who both did a huge amount of detail work to bring 13 people to Cambodia, and who had the vision for it. On the first morning of our visit, we visited the actual "killing fields" and the prison camp where thousands of Cambodians were murdered. I was grateful to our guide Rachael and Paul for starting the trip this way – showing us the traces of suffering created by power over and violence. Though visiting hospitals also puts us into contexts of suffering, illness is quite another thing from avoidable humanly-caused misery.

And that we witnessed. A detail I can't forget: we were shown a tree against which babies were killed – in order to save precious bullets, the Khmer Rouge battered the babies against the tree until they died. "In order to save precious bullets."

We visited children with AIDS (Cambodia has the highest rate of AIDS in Asia), who had been hurt defects (some a result of the chemicals used in warfare). We cloaked in a huge school (formerly a factory) for street children where they learn trades. The organization that runs this school has three parts: one part is out in the streets trying to help the children, the second part is the running of the school, and third part is follow-up work to keep the children in jobs and not going back into the streets (they said this was the hardest part—drugs, despair, and poverty working more quickly than education).

We in a fine restaurant, run by street kids.

The strangest sight, the one my eyes wasn't easily digest, was our clowning at a school which is in the city dump for the children who scavenged there. As a huge number of kids spend their lives in the city dump looking through the huge, thirty feet high mounds of garbage for salvageable things to sell, this French agency set up a school right there, IN the dump. When our bus of clowns arrived, hundreds of snodged and semi-naked kids ran towards us. Normally I bend down, according to my chest, to meet the eye level of the kids. In this place, I was so overwhelmed by anger (hiding inside was grief), I couldn't meet the eyes of the children. I couldn't look at any one of them directly. In the background were the mountains of garbage smoking with dust, with little figures on them (the kids). Who is to take care?

Eating a nice dinner in a hotel, and the dinner's cost is $2.00. What is this? My stinginess gratified (wow, a bargain), who is to take care? Maybe the garbage is taking care. Who is to take care?

It's tricky, this "humanitarian clowning"—my impression is so strong when I'm there, the desire to help so strong, and then I come home, and Christmas in this country is brewing, I get a stomach flu and other things happen, and there I am. TV and newspapers smirk at me in their slick grind of producing one more day of excessively calculated ignorance.

POLITICAL ANALYSIS/PARALYSIS

Why? Why did this happen in Cambodia? Why this genocide?

The question "why" arises strongly if you're thinking while you're in Cambodia. Or if you think about it afterwards. The people seem especially unariable. The explanations that people give constantly bring up Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and very rarely the US or other countries. I don't trust the question "why."

"Why? (ahem,hmmm, errr, whoops, walked into my own trap)."

Herbert Brun was more interested in the results of the question "when," than in "why." Why is answered by means of "because," "when" is answered in terms of specifying conditions— "not why there was genocide," but "when does genocide happen?"

If it was Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge who killed all the people, then under what conditions could this have happened?

When does genocide happen? Under which conditions?

The subject of a future article...
Indigenous People Assert Their Rights in Honduras

by Belden Fields

A CHANGED SITUATION

Conflict between the Miskitos and the other Contras forces and the Sandinista government ceased when the Sandinista government lost the 1990 elections. In the 1990s, there were U.N.-brokered peace agreements in Guatemala and El Salvador. With the cessation of these conflicts, the Honduran military is more concerned with human rights abuses against the civilian population. A new crisis was looming. If the United States no longer saw Central America as a region that required its military intervention, other threats from the Contras and guerrillas were a serious concern. Honduras serves as a base for U.S. military incursions and shipping, mining, and tourist activity that endangers the indigenous people. The military bases in Honduras offer some security, but they are not a sufficient substitute for the protection the indigenous people need.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help Bill Taylor and Carlos Euceda realize their project, which is part of a larger struggle against the destructive policies of states like the United States and the Honduran government. Your support can make a difference in the lives of people who desperately need health care and education.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you would like to help, you can donate directly to Bill Taylor and Carlos Euceda or contact the CONPAH directly to find out how you can help.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The struggle for the rights of indigenous peoples continues in Central America. You can support this struggle by volunteering your time and skills, donating money, or spreading the word about the work of organizations like CONPAH. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of indigenous peoples in Honduras and around the world.
Living Peacefully in a Violent World
Laura Stengrim

Laura Stengrim is a graduate student at the U of I. She has written on the so-called anti-globalization movement, and the media, researched and written on the War on Iraq, and is studying the politics of free trade. She would likely thank Lisa Chason, who connected her with authorship.

KATHY KELLY WAS A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEE in 2000, again in 2001 with Dennis Halliday, and also in 2003 with Voices in the Wilderness; she is one of the founders and coordinators of Voices in the Wilderness, a Chicago-based campaign since 1996 to end the United Nations sanctions against Iraq; she was a member of the Iraq Peace Team, spending October 2002 through April 2003 (except for a break of several weeks in January 2003) in Iraq, and was therefore present when the American bombs started falling in Baghdad in March of 2003; she has traveled to Haiti, Bosnia, and Jenin on the occupied West Bank, and was part of a peace team located on the Iraq-Saudi border during the 1991 Gulf War. In Iraq, she has spoken in Champaign-Urbana on many occasions. What is clear when seeing her speak, conversing with her in interviews, and in listening to others sing nothing but praises about her, is that the emboidies -and puts a face to activism. I had the pleasure of speaking with Kelly on February 24th to discuss her work as well as some of the fundamental questions in our current world when it comes to peace and justice. Through anecdotes and evidence of her commitment to pacifism and especially the plight of children worldwide, we gain a picture of world politics and social activism that is devastatingly real, yet persistently hopeful.

Kathy Kelly

Kelly's treatment upon her most recent arrest and the impending sentence indeed punctuate a lifetime of peaceful protest and leave a question mark lingering. Indeed punctuate a lifetime of peaceful protest and leave a question mark lingering, indeed punctuate a lifetime of peaceful protest and leave a question mark lingering.

HOSTED AND ABUSED AT FORT BENNING
Kelly's treatment upon her most recent arrest and the impending sentence indeed punctuate a lifetime of peaceful protest and leave a question mark lingering over the state of civil liberties in this country. She will serve a 90-day term in federal prison, which is nothing short of sadism. Kelly, probably starting in late March, for trespassing onto military property at Fort Benning, Georgia to protest the School of the Americas (SOA, now WHISC) last fall. Each year, thousands of nonviolent protesters gather at the gates of Ft. Benning and ask that the SOA be shut down. Names of the murdered Latin American innocents are read in a funeral procession, after each of which the word present is spoken in solemn remembrance of the hundreds of thousands murdered by SOA graduates. This is not the first year Kelly has participated in actions at Ft. Benning. In 1990, she did a water-only fast for 28 days, an action she says was "commensurate with the crimes being committed" in Latin America and in the Middle East, where people lack basic necessities and live in constant fear. Late at night, soldiers would come to the gate and talk with Kelly and the other protesters, asking questions about where El Salvador was, or why they might be sent to protect a small country like Kuwait?

Kelly sees the annual protest at Ft. Benning as an opportunity to participate in nonviolent resistance, because there is predictability in the consequences for "crossing the line" or stepping beyond the literal strip of white paint marking the beginning of military property. In the past, arrests have been made and widespread citations for trespassing issued. The arrests in 2003, however, make Kelly part of the SATA 28, a group harshly prosecuted for their actions on November 23rd, when some 14,000 people gathered at Ft. Benning, now facing a police force funded by the federal defense budget and a military engaging in trans-Atlantic training with the U.K. on how to deal with large groups of protesters. Shortly before Kelly arrives, Kelly says, white, middle-class, educated peace activists are treated with kid gloves, those arrested this time suffered the kind of brutal treatment by authorities more typically seen against urban people in Iraq. Kelly and the other protesters, asked to see her if she is willing, say, "Laura, you don't just interview Kathy yourself?"

Kelly and Iraq children

Kelly was pushed to the floor and called "fucking soldier" by an angst-filled soldier who held her on the ground by kneeling on her back. In her words, she was "hogtied," with her wrists and ankles cuffed and chained together, and dragged around the jail. She claims, in a widely-distributed editorial entitled "Hogtied and Abused at Fort Benning", "We now live in a country where Homeland Security funds pay for exercises which train military and police units to control and intimidate crowds, detainees, and arrestees using threat and force." Kelly now faces 90-plus days in federal prison, with another month possibly tacked on for a different direct action in Wisconsin; she has chosen to self-report when it comes time for her incarceration, spending her remaining weeks planning her release, planning tours and doing interviews such as this one.

U.N. SANCTIONS AND THE AMERICAN WAR ON IRAQ
Kelly, perhaps best known for her work in Iraq, spoke at a rally at the U of I as well as the Champaign Public Library in September 2003 at a "Town Meeting" regarding on the War on Iraq. She retold her experience of "A Day in Baghdad, the third day of War during which the U.S. dropped 1000 bombs on the city, costing $1 million apiece; that's one billion dollars worth of murder and destruction in one day in a war that continues, with the U.S. spending $4 billion each month to finance its occupation of Iraq. What would Kelly have done with a billion dollars to spend in 24 hours in Baghdad? "Lift the economic sanctions," she says, "so people could go to work and have purchasing power and strengthen their own infrastructures, including education, social services, and communication." she could so they realize their collective potential.

As a result of 12 years of sanctions, Iraq was left with a starving, oppressed, and dying citizenry, whose story Kelly worked tirelessly to bring to the attention of American media. With Voices, she was instrumental in making the anti-sanctions campaign into a national conversation branched out from the U.S. and mainstream media repeatedly refused to cover the story, much less dare walk into a hospital or school in Iraq. It is estimated that tens of thousands of Iraqis died each month — many of them children and elderly people, from malnourishment and diseases caused by unsanitary water and living conditions — during the sanctions period between the Gulf War and War on Iraq. Some estimate 1 million deaths attributable to the sanctions — half of them children. Moreover, the sanctions only worked to strengthen Hussein's regime, making him richer and giving his Baathist regime more power and leverage while sacrificing an impoverished citizenry.

After September 11th, 2001, as the War against Terrorism began in Afghanistan and the Iraq War was sold to the American public via falsified claims of weapons of mass destruction, Voices decided to change its agenda from anti-sanctions to anti-war, launching a new project called the Iraq Peace Team that has sent approximately 150 "ordinary" people to Iraq so that they could return home to tell their neighbors and friends about what they witnessed. In late summer and fall of 2002, members of the Iraq Peace Team visited hospitals and schools, bared electric fences, bridges, and other infrastructural sites, and experienced the terror of war for themselves. Upon returning to the U.S., the volunteers toured widely, sharing experiences and reiterating that Iraqis are just like us, that they need the same resources and depend on the same facilities as we do.

In March, the bombs started falling. Housed in the Al Fanar hotel in Baghdad, Kelly saw the city transformed almost instantly into a "deserted ghost town." People who had only hours before roamed streets and visited markets were afraid to go anywhere. As she puts it, the constant barrage of "earsplitting blasts and sickening thuds" on A-Day signaled "a defeat before it was even spoken of as a victory." An ironic victory indeed, as the occupation continues with daily attacks and stayings, sewage seeping into hospitals and schools, and an infant mortality rate that has doubled in less than one year, according to the most recent reports. Kelly calls the sanctions and War on Iraq the "most egregious instance of child abuse on the planet." While prior to 1990 obesity was the number-one killer of children in Iraq, since then there has been a five-fold increase in cancer and massive deaths due to malnutrition and poor sanitation, and to the sanctions as well as U.S. bombings throughout the decade that used unarmipped with depleted uranium.

"Democracy is based on information," she says, yet mainstream media refused to report on the consequences of the sanctions in the 1990s, and the beloved journalistic embeds were overwhelmingly hawkish during the Iraq War and months leading up to it. For example, corporate media was quick to report that Colin Powell's speech before the U.N. in February of 2003 cinched the cause, and we know now that his fancy visually-enhanced presentation relied on false evidence. And while the Peace Team relentlessly invited journalists into hospitals and schools during the sanctions and prior to the war, America refused to listen.
During the Gulf War of 1991, Kelly joined a group of pacifists who stationed themselves along the Iraq-Saudi border, hoping to bring attention to the violence of war, with little result. But hope was not lost. By 2001 the peace movement was renewed, educated, and highly aware of the situation in the Mideast and Iraq. Kelly tells us that although we did not win the war, “the international movement came closer than ever,” and “should be heartened.” We need to keep telling people about this war, “to refuse to be farbound and further bambaazled.”

A COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL LIVING

Local librarian and community member Carol Inskoop has known Kelly for 20 years. They worked together in a group house on the north side of Chicago that served as a soup kitchen, drop-in center for women, house of hospitality, and alternative school. What impresses Inskoop most about Kelly is that she “lives her life by her deep convictions,” she is compelled to speak out against injustice and in the name of peace in any manner possible, including illegal acts of civil disobedience, yet “she is personally modest and warm, and she has a wonderful sense of humor.”

“Don’t make a virtue out of necessity,” Kelly told me when I asked her how she prevents herself from despair that would succumb most of us if we were to look at our lives as she has to peace, nonviolence, and simplicity. She is truly happy—happy to be and happy to be happy.

When we have not heard, none of the candidates for the presidency of Guatemala received a majority of votes on November 9th and so there was a “second round” on December 28th between Oscar Berger (of GANA) and Alvaro Colom (of UNE). Reports I read in the international press present Colom as the more liberal of the two, while admitting that both favored free trade and included former military officials in their proposed cabinets.

A Local Activist Writes from Guatemala

by Meredith Kruse

January 30, 2004

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this letter finds you well. I have just finished my third month of human rights accompaniment here in Guatemala and I feel myself full of stories and thankful for this space to reflect on my experiences.

For Crecencio, as you have not heard, none of the candidates for the presidency of Guatemala received a majority of votes on November 9th and so there was a “second round” on December 28th between Oscar Berger (of GANA) and Alvaro Colom (of UNE). Reports I read in the international press present Colom as the more liberal of the two, while admitting that both favored free trade and included former military officials in their proposed cabinets.

On the ground, community support for candidates was based on more tangible issues. In Iiom, all of the witnesses in the genocide case supported Oscar Berger and were elated, yet cautious, when nomes came that he had won. Given that only two parties (GANA and GAN-) were running, no illusions that the government would make drastic changes to improve their lives in the future. Witness stories were definitely relieved when nomes found a man who had been defeated but, like Berger’s victory, this event seemed to reinvigorate, rather than lessen, their participation in organizations like CALDH (Center for Human Rights Legal Action) as a means to pressure and hold accountable a government structure still deeply distrusted.

And what about news from the holidays? For the time I spent Christmas and New Years away from friends and family but was not lonely since I felt welcome into the homes of those I lived with in Xix and Iiom. Many of you may be familiar with the Catholic tradition of holding “posadas” during the nine evenings prior to Christmas Day. After years of being overwhelmed by the excessive consumerism of the holidays in the United States, I found myself, for the first time, able to relate to the Christian message of this season. On Christmas Eve Brad (my new partner) and I hiked into Xix in the pouring rain to arrive (cold, wet and seeking refuge) at the house of one of the witnesses, Don Crecencio. As Mary and Joseph had done, we asked for a place to stay the night and were immediately welcomed, given food, and allowed to warm ourselves by the fire. Later that evening there was a posada in Don Crecencio’s house where two groups re-enacted the story of Mary and Joseph. While one group gathered outside and asked for refuge (in the form of a song) those inside first denied, and then granted, their entrance. No presents were exchanged, but there was an exchange and a discussion about how to engage young people in community organizing was shared. That night I was left thinking about how great Don Crecencio’s hospitality for accompanying us from around the world had been and how enriched all of our lives become when we open ourselves to providing and receiving assistance from others.

And who is this Don Crecencio? Don Crecencio is a small farmer, a harvester of squash, a tender of three cows, and a flock of sheep. He is also an organizer who cares deeply for his community and has been working to improve the schools and roads of his town for many years. In the early 1980’s Don Crecencio was persecuted by the Guatemalan Army for his involvement with Catholic Action. He tells us that soldiers came looking for him during the night, but the banking of his dogs afforded him enough time to escape with his wife and two small children. He returned home only to be persecuted on the third time the soldiers came. He decided to flee for good to the mountains of Santa Clara where he lived in a community of Populistas who had marked the foundation where his parents once stood. “The army came and burned their house with everything inside, but my parents were able to flee.” After that, Iiom marked the foundation where his parents’ home once stood. “The army came and burned their house with everything inside, but my parents were able to flee.”"
Letter from Guatemala (continued)

occurred on this site, but Don Crecencio lives these memories and walks among their markers everyday. Given the unspeakable suffering of the past it is no wonder his commitment to the slow, tedious, and potentially dangerous search for justice runs so deep.

Overall it feels good to have "returned" to both communities several times and still have three months stretching out before me. It has been important to get to know people well enough to be able to notice when things change or remain the same. The corn and coffee harvest has been collected and those in Ixom are replanting again, the school year has started and children now run up the dirt road with notebooks in their hands. The holidays have passed and new mayors have taken their positions, I notice scars healing on the faces and arms of young children and am aware that the pig at Domingo’s has given birth and that the runt did not survive past the first week. Juana has weaved two new morralas (shoulder bags) for her younger brother to carry their notebooks to school and after a long period of decline her grandfather, perhaps the oldest man in Ixom, passed away. Time-flows and my self being accepted and making connections.

And then on other days I find myself introspective and quiet. Thinking of forces that continue to threaten the well-being of our world or simply feeling the tension of the face of ongoing sicknesses that plague the children around me. For several months now, and despite taking the free medicine from the Cuban doctors, Juana and Mاغdalena’s deep chest colds persist as I see them grow tired and weary. I also come to honor the patience of Mario, who has been working for decades to recover land stolen from those in Ixom from the nearby Finca La Paria. I am amazed at his persistence despite repeated setbacks (dragging within the community elections of conservative mayors, threats from Finca owners) and my respect for him deepens as he extends great efforts (walking for hours over the mountains just to make one phone call). With all this, I have developed much patience with regards to the time it takes to effect social change and have come to see small steps forward as victories definitely worth celebrating.

I have also been challenged in the last two months to think differently about international development projects. In what seemed like rapid succession, my conversation with the witnesses that reinforce the importance of creating opportunities. In rural Guatemalan communities recovering from war, interna-
tional aid projects are highly sought after and unfortunately often meet their end due to corruption and inter-
national conflict among local administering groups. This is not to say that international aid should cease, but only that the giving of aid is rife with potential complications which must be seriously considered. And so, I acknowledge that finding answers to these ques-

Confidence on Treatment and Research papers, Congress-
man Dave Weldon to Deliver
Keynote Address
Chicago, IL - The second annual Autism One Conference returns to Chicago on Thursday, May 27th through Saturday, May 30. The event will bring together the best and the brightest across a variety of disciplines featuring many of the world's leading autism scientists, researchers, educators, and practitioners. Congresswoman Dave Weldon (R-FL) is expected to deliver the keynote address. As also a physician, Congressman Weldon has been one of the autism community’s staunchest advocates on Capitol Hill, pushing for additional research, greater funding, and better access to educational opportunities.

With over 100 presentations to help par-
ents and professionals make the most

The Most Comprehensive Conference on Autism Ever Assembled, Autism One Returns for Second Year in Chicago

informative choices and decisions, Autism One will cover four tracks including bio-
medical treatments, behavioral therapies, complementary and alternative medicine, and government and legal issues. The conference was started by a small group of parents in California with children with autism. Ed Arranga is the primary coordi-
nator for the comprehensive three-day event. With the success of last year’s Autism One, Ed hopes even more will be in attendance this year to learn about the latest autism treatments. "Contrary to popular belief, many children with autism do recover, or improve tremendously, given the proper treatments," says Arranga. "It is our hope that Autism One will enable more par-
ents to become their child’s most effective caregiver, advocate, and healer.

Those attending the conference will have the opportunity to hear from a broad range of leading experts including Dr. Andrew Wakefield, Dr. Boyd Haley, Dr. William Walsh, Dr. Jeff Bradstreet, Dr. Arthur Kriegsman, and Dr. William Shaw among others. Topics will include allopathic, naturopathic, osteopathic, homeopathic, and chiropractic treatments, traditional Chinese medicine, applied behavioral analysis, verbal behavior, floor time, specific carbohydrate diet, gluten/casein free diets to name a few. Dr. Laura Mamounas, Program Director of the Autism Research Institute at the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, will be presenting a segment on autism and the medical profession. Discussions on other pressing topics such as IEPs, puberty and beyond, dealing with insurance companies, the legal system, choosing a practitioner, and practical advice will also be covered.

Along with getting up to speed on the most effective treatments and therapies, attendees will also have the opportunity to meet officials from Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, and the Institute of Medicine. Not only will high-ranking members from these federal agencies present, they will also be available to answer questions and give explanations on the government’s present and future projects for fighting autism.

Unlike last year’s conference, Autism One 2004 will feature a special conference pre-dinner meeting with Ed Arranga to help bring parents quickly up to speed in biolo-
gy, anatomy and nutrition, as well as the history of medicine, the history of autism, and philosophy of science. The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Michi-
gan Avenue.

For more information on Autism One, or to register, visit AutismOne.org or call Ed at 714.680.0792, or write to arranga@autismone.org.
April 9, 1979, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—surrounded by executives from the major tobacco companies, production companies, and advertising agencies, Richard Nixon somberly asked his audience for their support to “help our nation to be strong. You’ve got to put down the drugs.”

Nixon declared, “if this nation is going to survive, it will depend on how you gentlemen help raise our children.”

For many historians and political scientists, this moment marks the birth of America’s war on drugs. For others, the war on drugs was born with the passage of the Boggs Act of 1965, which for the first time in U.S. history mandated minimum sentences for specifically targeted drug trafficking. Other scholars point to Ronald Reagan’s reminder that “the newsrooms and productions rooms of our media centers have a special opportunity to send alarm signals across the nation” and quickly added the promise of an “unshakable commitment to do what is necessary to end the drug war.”

And still for others, it was W. Bush’s declaration during his first televised address as president that ended the war on drugs. Despite this historical disconnect, the war on drugs continues with the proper care and education, a “crack mother,” and the myth of a generation of drug users.

Although most of the hype has been corrected, or simply forgotten, the legacy of the crack scare is not so comforting. The 1980s witnessed an unprecedented ratification of law enforcement and a concurrent boom in the prison population.

The crack scare of the 1980s hid from public view the shrinking of the middle class, the loss of American jobs, and the decline of control national debt and on and on. The crack scare of the 1980s hid from public view the shrinking of the middle class, the loss of American jobs, and the decline of control national debt and on and on.

The crack scare of the 1980s hid from public view the shrinking of the middle class, the loss of American jobs, and the decline of control national debt and on and on. The crack scare of the 1980s hid from public view the shrinking of the middle class, the loss of American jobs, and the decline of control national debt and on and on.
Environmental Impacts of the FTAA

by Richard Besel

Richard Besel is a graduate student in Speech Communication. His research interests include rhetoric of science, environmental communication, and political communication.

The FTAA has woefully inadequate provisions for the environment. As an example, Chilean Senator Jorge Lavandero, in a recent edition of Newsweek, argues his country could not be free to change their laws without fear of legal action under the agreement and would not be capable of defending themselves from pollution from mining companies. He notes, “We are practically giving up our sovereignty” if Chile were to be sued, under the FTAA chapter eleven rules. William Warren, who authored the chapter eleven rules of the NAFTA chapter eleven rules, rules similar to the FTAA’s, states that the NAFTA’s companies have already filed claims totaling over more than $13 billion. Take the example of California-based Metalclad. When prevented from dumping toxic waste in an “ecological zone” by Mexican authorities in Guadalacalza, they sued the city under NAFTA rules. Metalclad was awarded more than $16 million. Some companies apparently believe if it is not possible to put things into your environ- ment, they can take money out of your cof- fers. Many critics have attempted to make com- parison with the NAFTA and FTAA when analyzing potential neg- ative effects. I wish to also point out one way the FTAA and NAFTA are not alike. NAFTA, although environmen- tally harmful, has resistance to incorporate sup- plemental environmental trade arrangements (but as the previous paragraph demonstrates, it was never really enforced). The FTAA does not. Clearly, it gives the appearance of a government in happen- ing about the environment. Unfortunately, our government is partly responsible for this alarming omission. According to Foreign Pol- icy In Focus, “Washington suggested even weaker language” than what was used in NAFTA for the FTAA. The FTAA investors show no sign of discontinuing these free, but environmentally unfair, trade practices.

The second, the FTAA also provides an addi- tional incentive for countries to continue destructive environmental trade practices. It should come as no surprise that economic development is often accompanied by envir- onmentally questionable production prac- tices. However, if nations engage in tariff reductions at an accelerated pace, corpora- tions will feel the unfettered pull of capital- istic incentives and environmental concerns. NAFTA, for its part, has been accused of providing the right environment for the right to pollute. "We are practically giving up our sovereignty" if Chile were to be sued, under the FTAA chapter eleven rules. NAFTA provides the right to pollute. "We are practically giving up our sovereignty" if Chile were to be sued, under the FTAA chapter eleven rules. NAFTA provides the right to pollute.

Both the law environmental regulations and the free trade pull factors will allow additional pollution to be released near those who have already taken on the brunt of capital’s burden.


eNviroNMen

April 1: Veterans and their Families Speak Out

On April 3, 2004, AWARE will host an event where veterans and the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq will speak to the pub- lic. Featured speakers include Rosamie Dietz Slavena, an Illinois mother who lost her son Brian in the Chinook helicopter crash outside Fallujah, Iraq last November. She is a member of the national organiza- tion “Military Families Speak Out.” Also speaking will be Mr. Miller of Vietnam Vet- erans Against the War and Paul King, a local veteran from Champaign.

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.


April 1 - Veterans and their Families Speak Out

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- portation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:
Manning, M., “The Free Trade Area of the Americas”.
Kepplinger, J. and J. C. Hall, “The FTAA: Eco-

Regional Planning Commission Open House

Sprawl is becoming a reality for Champaign-Urbana as new subdivisions on the edges of town are being approved daily. This means more roads and therefore more cars will inhabit our communities. Traffic congestion, depleting air quality, encroachment of agricultural lands and green spaces, is all inevitable if we continue to grow this way. One way YOU can make a difference is by getting involved in the planning process. The transportation divi- sion of the Regional Planning Commission is holding an Open House on March 13th from 4-7pm at the University of Illinois Terminal in Champaign on the region’s Long Range Trans- transportation Plan. This event is open to the public and the staff is seeking public input.
IMC Library Zine Review: RACE

by Adam

RACE, the new zine from the RACE Collective, is the latest entry in a growing field of anti-authoritarian hip hop culture that seeks to challenge traditional notions of community and activism. "Breaking Out of Activist Ghettos since 2001," the RACE collective is a group of artists who have been working on various projects aimed at organizing one's community in the spirit of creativity and radical culture. "It is also an inspiring testament to the power of information or low-cost do-it-yourself projects." This became the premise as they drew inspiration from the scene in Los Angeles and Oakland. Though the author finds some similarities between the two, she noticed that "while hip hop scenes were already politically conscious people, the underground hip hop scene didn't have a thriving network of disseminating information or low-cost do-it-yourself projects." This became the impetus for the beginnings of RACE, a monthly open mic event whose proceeds benefit the RACE collective. The creation of such a political and uplifting venue has transformed the underground hip hop scene in the Bay Area into "a place where a new revolutionary culture is born." It is an inspiring testament to the power of organizing one's community in the spirit of creativity and radical change.

Also featured in RACE is an article by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin. Born in Chattanooga, TN, in 1947, Ervin took a very active role in the Civil Rights Movement, joining the NAACP when he was 12, taking part in the sit-ins against racial discrimination in 1960, and being court-marshalled for being an anti-war organizer while serving 2 years in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. In the excerpt from his book, Ervin illustrates why he's a Black revolutionary, an anti-imperialist, an anti-racist, a Libertarian Socialist, an anarchist-socialist, and an anarchist. His powerful words will inspire the reader to take action. Especially in times like these, it is encouraging to learn from activists who not only have fought and won some of the freedoms we enjoy today, but who continue to fight until ALL peoples are free. If your interests lie more within the realm of poetry, you will be blown away by the political prose of El Compadre Nando and Solidad d'Costa. "Our New War" is a major contribution for the state of the world: "This nation colors its slaughters / so the cells of sons and daughters / still remember tales of tears and / homesteaded harriers, even / as their / minds' eyes wave at red, white and / blue fighter planes as they go by / - / bye-bye." And "Siglo Ventuno" celebrates our dream for freedom, "¡Pero éste! Año Cero, será nuestro!" (But this Year Zero will be ours!). Needless to say, I couldn't put this zine down, and I venture to say that you'll also want to read this one from cover to cover.

For more information on the RACE collective, check out: http://passionbomb.com/race and come by the IMC library, find a comfortable seat, and be prepared to be mesmerized by this amazing zine. RACE can be found in the "political zines" section of the IMC zine library.